



HR1043

LRB098 21017 GRL 58711 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Washington Fire
4 Chief Michael R. Vaughn on the occasion of being awarded the
5 Medal of Valor Award from the Office of the Illinois State Fire
6 Marshal; and

7 WHEREAS, The Medal of Valor award is given by the State of
8 Illinois to a firefighter for an act of heroism or bravery that
9 clearly demonstrated courage and dedication in the face of
10 danger while in the performance of duty; and

11 WHEREAS, Michael Vaughn's fire service career spans over 30
12 years beginning in 1982, when he became a member of the
13 Washington Rescue Squad; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1984, Michael Vaughn entered service for the
15 East Peoria Fire Department, serving as a Lieutenant, Assistant
16 Chief, and then Fire Chief for East Peoria for 3 years; and

17 WHEREAS, On August 1, 2008, Michael Vaughn returned to the
18 City of Washington to serve as the city's first full-time Fire
19 Chief; and

20 WHEREAS, The firefighters of the Washington Fire

1 Department recommended that Michael Vaughn be honored for the
2 bravery and heroism he demonstrated on the morning of November
3 17, 2013, when the town of Washington, alongside other central
4 Illinois communities, was struck by an EF4 tornado; and

5 WHEREAS, Earlier that morning, before the tornado's
6 arrival, Michael Vaughn was already preparing for the worst,
7 messaging his firefighters to be on the alert and ready to
8 respond; and

9 WHEREAS, As the storm entered his city, Michael Vaughn,
10 husband to Theresa Vaughn and father of three boys, left his
11 home and raced towards the path of the tornado in a vehicle
12 with lights and sirens to alert his community of the coming
13 danger, including the occupants of Washington Middle school,
14 the members of the Connect Church holding service there, and
15 the congregation of the Crossroads Church; and

16 WHEREAS, During Michael Vaughn's efforts to alert his
17 community, he placed himself in great peril within the reach of
18 the tornado's destructive winds, narrowly escaping with his
19 life; and

20 WHEREAS, It is not possible to determine the lives saved by
21 Michael Vaughn's selfless actions on the day of November 17,
22 2013, but he will remain a hero to the citizens of the City of

1 Washington, with or without an honor; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we commend Chief Michael R. Vaughn for his heroic actions,
5 thank him for his service, and congratulate him on receiving
6 the Medal of Valor; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Michael Vaughn as a symbol of our respect and
9 esteem.